

ABSTRACT

A prosthetic heart valve is provided that includes a ring structure that incorporates integrally a bearing block, a separate bearing block having two pins for accurate location that seats in a window in the ring structure and that is held in place by a circlip, and a pair of leaflets that are disposed in the passageway of the ring structure. The valve utilizes pyrolytic carbon in the ring structure, separate bearing block and leaflets. The valve has a simple structure, is durable and reliable, and is assembled without flexure or distortion of the ring structure, separate bearing block or leaflets.